



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2011

No. 95

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, July 1, 2011, at 10 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2011

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of wonders beyond all majesty, You are holy. We lift our hearts to You today in gratitude for Your goodness and mercy that continue to follow us. Today, guide our lawmakers by Your grace. Lord, show them Your ways; teach them Your path. May the law of love direct their labors, opening the door of new opportunities for service. Empower them to turn from the thoughts, words, and deeds that violate righteousness.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 29, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, after leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business for 1 hour. The Republicans will control the first half and the majority the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Res. 679, the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act. At 11 a.m. there will be up to five rollcall votes on several amendments and passage of S. 679. We are hopeful some of the amendments will be disposed of by voice vote. Following disposition of the Presidential appointment bill, the Senate will begin consideration of S. Res. 116 which comes out of the Rules Committee. Additional rollcall votes on amendments to the resolution are expected today.

MEDICARE

Mr. REID. Madam President, often very good ideas, no matter how important, take time to ripen. Even when they are ripe they need dedicated advocates to make them a reality. Let me give one example.

President Harry Truman once said:

Millions of our citizens do not now have a full measure of opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health. Millions do not now have protection or security against the economic effects of sickness. And the time has now arrived for action to help them attain that opportunity and help them get that protection.

But in 1945 when he spoke those words to Congress, the time had not yet truly arrived. In fact, it would be another 20 years before Truman's good idea was realized. It would be 20 years before Truman became the first of 19 million Americans to receive a Medicare card.

President Lyndon Johnson signed Medicare and Medicaid into law in the Truman Presidential Library in Independence, MO. The law took effect almost a year later, 45 years ago this week, on July 1, 1966.

At the time Medicare took effect, only half of Americans 65 and older had access to health care coverage. A third of American seniors lived in poverty. "Poverty was so common that we did not know it had a name," President Johnson said, describing a time before Medicare.

Today, virtually every American over 65 has access to health care and the number of seniors who live below the poverty line has dropped by 75 percent. That is no accident. Medicare provides 47 million Americans with the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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